



The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for Federal Post #19 of The American Legion
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 July 2024

Department of Maryland celebrates 106th Convention in Ocean City

This year, the American Legion [Department of Maryland](#) will hold our 106th Anniversary Convention in Ocean City, Maryland from Tuesday, July 16 through Friday, July 19. In the Spring 2024 Edition of the [Free State Warrior](#), [Department](#) Adjutant Russell Myers comments on several of the Convention's highlights and notes that "If you have not attended the convention, it is a worthwhile experience. It highlights the great works of our Posts and Programs."

While the Convention starts on Tuesday, on Monday, July 15, the Southern Maryland Region is hosting their annual Fish Fry. Myers encourages everyone to bring their families. Located in an air-conditioned hall, the Fish Fry will feature a DJ, games for the entire family, and items for sale.

The [Legion College](#) is Tuesday, July 16 at 8 am, and Legionnaires are encouraged to register online. The courses are essential for officers at all levels as well as any Legionnaires who desire leadership positions. Myers points out that "one can bet this educational opportunity will remain a must for all Legionnaires." The [MyLegion](#) course is at 1 pm. The [MyLegion](#) site is instrumental in helping with membership, and *The Scoop* recommends the course to every Post Commander and Adjutant.

Myers also notes that Joint Reception and Opening Ceremony at 6:30 pm on Tuesday "is a wonderful way to kick off the Convention and



everyone is invited." This year, Jim LaCoursiere (Godreau-McMahon Post #91, Moosup, CT), the leading candidate for 2024-2025 National Commander will deliver the keynote address and will share his vision for the future.

Membership awards will be distributed on Wednesday morning, and this year, [Federal Post #19](#) has achieved 100% membership for the 5th year in a row and ranks 45th among Posts statewide. Big salute to SMR, District 6 for its overall number one District in the [Department](#). Another big salute to [Mannie Scott Post #193](#), Denton, MD, for being first in membership among Posts, and congratulations on your recent Historical Preservation Grant. Once renovations are completed, expect a visit from Post #19.

On Wednesday evening at 7 pm, we will hold our Post Everlasting Ceremony, "A somber and moving tribute to those members that have answered the Last Roll Call." Myers notes that "The remembrance of those transferred to Post Everlasting is a duty of those of us still living,

General Meeting Sunday, July 7, 4 pm at the Post

and this program is the finest service one can witness."

Other Convention highlights include the Department Oratorical winner Sid Bajaj from Northern Central Region, this year's Boy' State Governor, and this year's recipients of our National Security-Public Safety awards to first responders from across our State who "stand guard and answer the call when needed."

Post #19 elects Comrade Rodney Reid as Post Commander; Little leaves after 4-year tenure

This past June, members of [Federal Post #19](#) elected Comrade Rodney Reid as Commander. This is Reid's second go round as



Commander having served from 2011-2013. He wants to maintain continuity within the Post and build on past success. His goal is to continue to move the Post forward and make Post #19 "bigger and better."

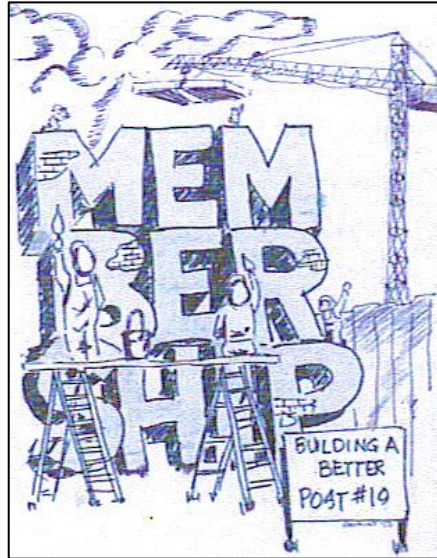
After serving as Commander for the past four years, Commander Larry Little has served as Commander for seven of the past eleven years, giving him the second most years as Commander (Raymond Gough has eight, 1986-1994).

“We’ve had a pretty good few years, says Little. “We’ve made significant upgrades to the building especially with opening the backyard, LZ 19. We’ve upgraded our canteen equipment, made renovations to the building, and put us and our ancestors on our walls. More important, we’ve held firm and expanded our determination to fulfill the Four Pillars. I would estimate that during the past four years, we’ve donated at least \$30,000 directly to the mission of our veterans’ service organization, which increases when we take Unit #19 and Squadron #19 into account. And that doesn’t include the drives we’ve conducted for food, clothing, and personal care items or all the volunteer hours at the VA and within the community.”

“I am proud of our Post #19 family and friends, and any success we’ve had is yours. It’s been a pleasure working with the Auxiliary and Sons. Thank you, Gina, Vonnie, Poochie, Ernie, Aaron, Pinder, Petey, and Roscoe. You all made my job so much easier. I can’t make a list of all the members who have contributed throughout my tenure; it would be way too long, but I would be remiss if I did not mention Past Commander Betty Bonds. She has been and is my rock, my partner, and my Legionnaire of the year every year. Thank you, Betty.

I look forward to supporting Commander Reid in the upcoming year. There is little doubt that we will move forward to even greater things. Along with Commander Reid, Kaymin Brown was elected 1st Vice; Sabina Young, 2nd Vice; Harriett Gross, 3rd Vice; Margaret Conaway, Adjutant; Joe Harden, Finance Officer; John Jones, Judge Advocate; and Reggie Baker, Sgt-at-Arms. Historian, Chaplain, and Service Officer will be appointed by Commander Reid.

Join to Serve



Officers’ Installation scheduled for Sunday, July 28th

On Sunday, July 28, 2024, the [Federal Post #19](#) family will install officers for 2024-25 at 3:00 am at Monumental Lodge #3, 1528 Madison Avenue. Along with Rodney Reid as Post #19 Commander, ALA member Shelley Scott will be inducted as President for [Federal Unit #19](#) and SAL Comrade Irvin Johnson as Commander of [Federal Squadron #19](#). Installation is open to the public, and we hope that as many members as possible can join us and celebrate this momentous occasion. After Installation, we will take group photographs for our 95th Anniversary Journal, and refreshments will be served shortly thereafter.

Camouflage Party at Federal Post #19 on July 6

This year, Federal Post #19 will be celebrating the 4th of July twice. On Thursday the 4th, we will have a DJ, a special menu by the cook, and a toast to the 248th anniversary of our nation’s birth. Then on Saturday, July 6, we will be celebrating the 4th again with the official opening of LZ

19. LZ stands for Landing Zone. From Vietnam to Afghanistan, all branches of the U.S. military used landing zones to transition personnel and equipment into and out of combat areas. Depending on the mission, LZ’s varied in size and permanence, but especially for those leaving combat, the LZ was a safer place and a step closer to home. Therefore, our backyard is officially LZ 19 to honor all the veterans and current servicemembers who travelled through the LZ.



Post #19 partners with VFW Post #8509 to present Community Service Awards

On Sunday, June 7, [Federal Post #19](#) is partnering with Tyson-Walker Memorial VFW Post #8509 to present community service awards to deserving members of our community. The recipients include Law Enforcement Officer: Officer James Edge, Baltimore City Police Department, Central District; Firefighter: Mitchell Reynolds, Arthur “Smokestack” Hardy Fire Station; Student: Aliona Penniston, Mt. Royal Elementary/Middle School # 66; Teacher: Alka Sharma, Mt. Royal Elementary/Middle School #66.

Army Chaplain Corps celebrates 249th Anniversary

In 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the creation of an Army Chaplain Corps, providing one chaplain for each regiment. At the time, those who served as Army chaplains were paid about \$20 a month and had no required military uniform. Originally entirely Protestant, the Army Chaplain Corps evolved and changed, and over time, Catholic, Jewish, and African American chaplains were added. These additions happened prior to or during the Civil War, but women were not granted commissions as Army chaplains until 1979.

In 1863, African Methodist Episcopal (AME) minister Henry McNeal Turner became the first African American commissioned to be an Army chaplain. Turner was assigned to Company B of the United States Colored Troop (USCT), which he helped organized. For much of the war, he was one of few black officers in the USCT.

In August 1990, Chaplain Matthew Zimmerman became the 18th Army Chief of Chaplains and the first who was African American.

Ordned by the National Baptist Convention, Chaplain Zimmer entered the Army Chaplaincy as a captain by direct appointment in April 1967. He is a Vietnam War veteran who rose through the ranks to become a Major General in a 27-year career.



Currently, more than 2,700 chaplains represent more than 130 different religious organizations with over 900 chaplains and chaplain assistants mobilized or deployed in support of contingency operations throughout the world.

Army chaplains and chaplain assistants provide religious, spiritual, and moral leadership to our armed service members and their families, and *The Scoop* gives a hearty salute and a happy anniversary to the Army Chaplain Corps.



Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

Shelley Scott elected President for Federal Unit #19 for 2024-25

The Scoop would like to congratulate ALA member Shelleyarlene Scott who was recently elected as President for [Federal Unit #19](#). *The Scoop* wishes her much success. Also elected were Darnetta Simpson, 1st Vice; Pam Hines, 2nd Vice; Patricia Ann Walker, Treasurer; Sabina Young, Chaplain; and Lisa



Ware, Sgt-at-Arms. Tammy Hardy, Vickie Hardy, and Rokeysha Witherspoon were elected to the Executive Board.

Unit #19 and friends during Anniversary Week



Whose corner?



American Legion Auxiliary Federal Unit 19
Annual Crab Feast
 Saturday, August 3, 2024
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Columbus Gardens
 4301 Klosterman Avenue
 Baltimore, MD 21236
Tickets \$80
All you can eat crabs
Beer/Soda Buffet
 Garden Salad & Pasta Salad Baked Ham & Top Round of Beef, Maryland Crab Soup, Vegetables & Cheeses w/ Crackers, Barbecued Chicken, Hot Dogs and Sauerkraut, Penne Pasta with Meatballs and Sauce, Steins on the Cob, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Fresh Rye and Bun Assorted Sheet Cake
 Beverages: Coke, Coffee, Tea, Diet Coke, Sprite, Dr. Pepper, Sweet Iced Tea, Pink Lemonade, Tonic and Ginger Ale
 *50/50 Raffle *Door Prizes *Vendors
DJ Scottie B

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
FEDERAL POST UNIT 19
presents
AN EVENING OF WINE AND JAZZ
featuring the world renowned
Phil Butts and the Sunset Band
featuring Larzine
Sunday, September 29, 2024
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
The Cellar 2
Chateau Room
7631 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Wine, light fare, BYOB
\$45/per person
No sales at the door - NO refunds
Dress to impress - NO jeans or sneakers
Chairperson: Helena Baxter (443) 833-4259
Rose Davage-Wilks (410) 916-8817
Denise Foster (443) 629-3542
Margaret Harvey (443) 379-6993
Donna Simpson (410) 463-3678
Elaine Ware (410) 913-0951
Sabina Young (443) 495-9404
A.L.A. President Lasharan Wallace

THE AMERICAN LEGION FEDERAL POST #19
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL
BULL & OYSTER ROAST
DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024
TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
DONATION: \$80.00 PER PERSON
OPEN BAR * 50/50 RAFFLE * DOOR PRIZES * DJ
At MARTIN'S WEST
6817 DOGWOOD ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21244
COMMANDER: LAWRENCE LITTLE
CHAIRPERSON: DONNA ANDERSON
CO-CHAIRPERSONS: MICHAEL SMITH, BETTY BONDS & MARLIN JOHNSON
COMMITTEE: ALL UNITS

Our house for the Department Convention is at [807 Penguin Dr, Ocean City, MD 21842](https://www.google.com/maps/place/807+Penguin+Dr,+Ocean+City,+MD+21842).

The Scoop salutes ...

Third Vice Harriette Gross, Chaplain Thomas Russum, Sgt-at-Arms Tony Kennedy, Color Guard Reggie Baker for a successful and emotional Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flag Ceremony;

and Third Vice again for putting together a successful personal care items and clothing drive for VA Hospitals and MCVET;

all three units for achieving or exceeding 100% membership.

Our Comrades and Friends

Monumental Lodge #3, Moonlight & Sparkle Dance, Jul 20, 7-11 pm, BYOB, BYOF, \$20.

Appollo Crab Feast, Sun, Jul 21, 2-6, Tall Cedars, Open Bar, \$65.



A Word from the Sons

Squadron #19 elects slate of officers for 2024-25

At their May General Meeting, [Federal Squadron #19](#) elected a full slate of Squadron officers for 2024-25. Those officers include Irvin Johnson, Commander; Lewis Matthews, 1st Vice; William Pinder, 2nd Vice; Alonzo Ramsey, Judge Advocate; George Wright, Finance Officer; Enrico Williams, Historian; and Darnell Gordon, Sgt-at-Arms. Clarence Figgs was appointed Adjutant and Calvin Harvey was appointed Chaplain.



At the recent 51st Detachment Convention, [Federal Squadron #19](#) received seven awards with one more from National on the way. Completing the SAL National Commander's Challenge, they received awards for Three Star Membership, Child Welfare Foundation, Special Olympics MD, Boys State, and National Emergency Fund. They also received an award

for contributing to the Detachment Commander's Project (Southern MD Youth Camp) along with an Americanism Certificate and recognition for contributing to Operation Comfort Warrior. The awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of Squadron #19 Commander Roscoe Holley, his officers, and the entire membership. And don't forget the generous donation they gave to the Post's building fund for an elevator. For all of that, *The Scoop* gives Squadron #19 the heartiest salute.

[Any Legionnaire can sign up online for the Legion College at the Department Convention in Ocean City. Classes begin Tuesday, July 16 at 8:00 am. Just follow this link.](#)

Post Notes

Please take pictures of your volunteer work, especially at the VA hospitals and VA related activities so that we can document the great work you do.

Take the online [Basic Training Course](#) on the [National](#) website.

Please take time to visit or call our members who are sick and shut in. They must not be forgotten.

Please remember to clean your own areas at the Post. Personal responsibility and discipline will help keep all of us safe.

Sick Call
Louis Hardy
Freda Holley
Emmet Pope
Claude Scott
Bill Williams



Post Everlasting
Winfred Jackson

Squadron Everlasting
Joseph Powell, Jr.